



Remedial Classes

Fewer than 8 percent of state college students who take a remedial college class graduate on time. That's why I collaborated with our community colleges and the state university system to create a new law that re-makes the way Connecticut's state college students receive remedial classroom support—saving them time and money and increasing college graduation rates.



Bonding for Auerfarm

The Auerfarm is a resource for thousands of parents, kids and educators, and is also a place where fresh produce is grown for Foodshare. So I was very pleased to welcome a state grant for them to build an additional classroom/community room. For over 35 years the 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm has introduced young people to agricultural science and farm-based learning.



Helping Do Right & Save Money

I helped fix a loophole in state law that gave grocers, restaurants and others only two options after a prolonged power outage (like last October's!): throw out perishable food and collect insurance, or donate it to a shelter and collect no insurance. Now, grocers' insurance plans allow them to donate perishable goods to shelters AND still collect the insurance reimbursement.

State Grants for Local Businesses

Local businesses and cultural institutions continue to benefit from a variety of state grants, some of which were part of our October Jobs Bill: a medical technology firm received a state grant to expand, a start-up biotech company received assistance to move from Pennsylvania, and several area non-profits received operational and planning grants. I am bullish on Connecticut's economic future!



Above: Talking with Sean Powell, president and CEO of Gledhill Nursery in West Hartford, about the low-interest state loan Gledhill received to help with payroll and inventory. After a long winter in 2011, a week without power following the October snowstorm, and a generally sluggish economy, Powell said the state loan to Gledhill "gave us a big breather."

Other businesses that have received grants include:

- **Street Fleet Mechanics of Bloomfield** has been approved for a revolving loan and a matching grant. The awards will be combined with company funds to invest in new equipment and to hire and train five new employees and retain nine jobs.
- **Back East Brewing Company of Bloomfield** produces and sells handcrafted ales and lagers; the company's owners are investing funds and receiving a matching state grant to fund new production equipment, create one new job and retain two others.
- **Salamander Designs of Bloomfield** will invest their own funds and receive a state grant, plus a Job Creation Incentive Loan. These funds will support Salamander's recent market diversification and will help and train six new people, bringing their full-time staff to 25.

To learn how a similar program might help your small business, see the "Resources" on the inside of this mailer.

Additionally, the town of **Burlington** was awarded funds to extend the public water line into the central business district. This will provide clean, reliable water to businesses, the firehouse, and a senior complex. A second award will go toward restoring the Elton Tavern, a historic building on the town green that houses the Burlington Historical Society and a museum.



Your State Senator
Beth Bye

Representing the residents of
**Bloomfield, Burlington,
Farmington & West Hartford**

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Resources

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed a historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs and contact information that could benefit you or someone you know.

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: www.decd.org, or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or michelle.lugo@ct.gov
- **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or rina.bakalar@ct.gov
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- **Job & Career ConneCTion** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Talking with a small-business owner at West Hartford Town Hall after a presentation by the state Department of Economic and Community Development about various business loans and grants offered by the state.



Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass a historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and ensures high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- Increased funding for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- Kindergarten through third-grade reading programs
- Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- A fair and validated evaluation system that will help teachers improve
- Additional funding to school districts across the state

JOBS

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- Extending incentives to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP-Up Program;
- A "Connecticut Made" marketing campaign that advertises and markets locally made products;
- And a stronger "First Five" business incentive program that gives preference to companies that move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.

Re-Tooling State Policy For Local Manufacturers

Over 22,000 manufacturing jobs were advertised in Connecticut last year, and we rank 18th in the nation in terms of personal income derived from manufacturing. How do we invest in a future where good salaries, good benefits and steady employment are plentiful? Our Jobs Bills, STEP-Up and brownfield grants are a great start, but I also supported legislation that creates and offers:

- **Manufacturing Internships**
High school students age 16 and older can now work in manufacturing and mechanical internships; hands-on learning gets students on the shop floor faster and helps businesses be more productive and profitable.
- **Community College Manufacturing Centers**
We named three community colleges as "Manufacturing Technology Centers" to prepare students for manufacturing careers; the state will design, construct and equip these new manufacturing college centers.
- **More Money to Grow Manufacturing**
We've increased our commitment to help manufacturers expand and grow jobs by adding more funds to the state's Manufacturing Assistance Act program.
- **"Manufacturing Caucus"**
A new bipartisan team of legislators was formed to better understand and promote manufacturing and advanced manufacturing public policy.

